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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 29 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw your attention to yet another grave incident that occurred today along Israel's northern border with Lebanon.

This afternoon (local time), a cadre of Hizbullah terrorists crossed the Blue Line with the apparent intention of placing explosive charges in Israeli territory near the Har Dov mountain area. Israeli Defense Forces soldiers intercepted the terrorists and were able to thwart the planned larger-scale attack. In the exchange of fire that ensued, three soldiers were wounded.

Parallel to that incident, Hizbullah launched a barrage of mortar shells against Israeli positions in the area, resulting in the death of one Israeli soldier and the wounding of three soldiers. These incidents constitute flagrant violations of the Blue Line.

Today's grave incident was one of many recent cross-border attacks by the Hizbullah terrorist organization based in Lebanon. As we have repeatedly stressed during past weeks, and as can be understood from the menacing declarations made by the organization leaders, the Hizbullah terrorist organization is trying to escalate tensions along Lebanon's border with Israel. All this comes against the backdrop of various efforts of the Government of Lebanon and the international community to promote a positive and more stable reality in Lebanon.

The attack that Hizbullah carried out today was thus not only directed against Israel but also against the international community, against the people of Lebanon and against all those who support the recent positive developments towards democratization in Lebanon. Israel expects the Government of Lebanon, which it holds responsible for any such activity occurring within its territory, to take immediate action to disband and disarm all Lebanese and non-Lebanese terrorists operating in Lebanon.

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The Government of Israel calls once again upon the international community to see to it that the Government of Lebanon meets its obligations under the norms of international law and takes comprehensive and immediate action to restore control over its southern region and prevent any and all future terrorist attacks.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 148. An identical letter has been sent to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative